

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6835

S E C R E T CAIRO 9719

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: PERSHING MISSILES

REF: STATE 231389

1. PURSUANT REFTTEL, I MET WITH FAHMY TODAY TO TAKE UP THE MATTER OF THE PERSHING WITH HIM. I REFERRED TO HIS EARLIER COMMENT THAT THE SECRETARY HAD MENTIONED THE LANCES, BUT NOT THE PERSHING. THERE HAD BEEN A VERY SIMPLE REASON FOR THIS. AS I HAD SEVERAL TIMES POINTED OUT, THE ONLY COMMITMENT WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN RE PERSHING IS TO STUDY THE MATTER. IN THE CASE OF LANCES, THERE WAS A SPECIFIC UNDERTAKING. I STRESSED THERE WAS NO RPT NO INTENTION ON OUR PART TO HIDE ANYTHING OR DISSEMBLE WITH HIM. WE ARE AWARE OF UNFORTUNATE AGITATION PUBLICITY RE PERSHING HAS GENERATED IN ARAB WORLD AND PROBLEMS THIS CAUSES FOR EGYPT. HOWEVER, PUBLICITY HAS ALSO LED TO A MORE SEARCHING CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL AND HAS GIVEN SOME PERSPECTIVE TO QUESTION ON POSSIBLE FUTURE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT.

2. I MENTIONED NEW YORK TIMES STORY AND FACT THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN OUTCRY WHICH MIGHT IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. PONT WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND IS AFTER SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, ATMOSPHERE IN CONGRESS ON ARMS TO EGYPT HAS BEEN IMPROVED TO THE

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POINT WHERE SUBJECT CAN BE RATIONALLY DISCUSSED.

3. FAHMY SAID HE APPRECIATED THE EXPLANATION. HE HAD NOT MEANT TO SUGGEST WE WERE TRYING TO HIDE ANYTHING. HE HAD SIMPLY WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT GOE HAD NOT KNOWLEDGE OF PERSHING AND WHEN NEWS BROKE FOUND ITSELF IN A QUANDARY.

4. APART FROM THIS ASPECT, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT INTRODUCTION IN THE AREA OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SUCH AS THE PERSHING WILL FORCE EGYPT AND THE ARABS TO GET INVOLVED IN ANOTHER ARMS SPIRAL. EVEN IF WE HAVE A THIRD, FOURTH OR FINAL AGREEMENT, GIVING PERSHING TO ISRAEL MUST INEVITABLY HAVE THIS EFFECT. SADAT WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LOOK FOR SIMILAR MISSILES. THE PERSHING, FAHMY INSISTED, IS NOT A DETERRENT AS PERES CLAIMS. ITS INTRODUCTION INTO THE MIDDLE EAST AT ANY TIME WILL INEVITABLY ESCALATE ARMS RACE, HEIGHTEN TENSIONS AND THREATEN NEW OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES. ARAB STATES CANNOT SIT IDLY BY IF ISRAEL IS IN A POSITION TO THREATEN THEIR INDUSTRY AND CIVILIAN NERVE CENTERS THROUGH POSSESSION OF THIS MISSILE. USG, HE COUNSELLED, WILL BE WELL ADVISED NOT RPT NOT TO PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH PERSHING.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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